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May 16, 2002

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Gentlemen:

We enclose herewith copies of our monthly deposit account statements for the months of January, February and March, 2002 and September and October 2001.

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These \$180 charges are apparently in connection with Information Disclosure Statements. If we send you an Information Disclosure Statement where we know there is a \$180 fee due, we do not debit our deposit account, but rather we send you a check in payment of the fee due. We tend to use our deposit account merely for emergency situations; for example, if we fail to send you a check or if the check becomes lost in your offices.

We have made a spot check of the cases for which the \$180 fee has been charged, and we have not found one in which a \$180 fee was due for filing the Information Disclosure Statement belatedly. Thus, it is our initial conclusion that these charges which were made to our deposit account were made erroneously and without our authorization.

As such, you are requested to immediately advise us for each \$180 fee charged to our account, why that fee was charged and, in particular, why the USPTO believes a fee was due. If the fee was not due, we expect these fees to be credited back immediately.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office May 16, 2002 Page 2

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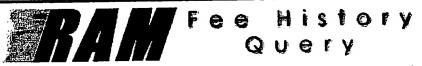
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U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 09/861,517

By: YANO et al.

Filed: May 22, 2002

For: EXPANSION VALVE

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